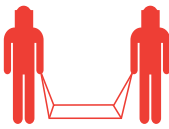




Highlights **JULY 2021**



Rainy season started and clearance teams demobilised as of 1 July 2021



Explosive Ordnance Disposal Response Team remains deployed at the Abyei HQ



69 Explosive Ordnance Risk Education sessions



Explosive ordnance risk education in Abyei



600 UNMAS school bags distributed to the Abyei Girls Primary School



School bags distributed in Abyei



2 UNISFA military and civilian staff received safety training



Ground monitoring mission at TS-21

7

Ground monitoring missions supported

UNMAS RESPONDING TO ERW RELATED EMERGENCIES AND SPREADING AWARENESS AMONG ABYEI COMMUNITIES

With the UNMAS clearance teams on stand down, remaining teams have continued their activities, including explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) response, non-technical survey (NTS) and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE). An EOD response team remains deployed at the Abyei HQ from 1 July to respond to any explosive remnants of war (ERW) related emergencies, while six local community liaison officers continue delivering safety briefings in Abyei, Agok and Diffra.

To support UNISFA, UNMAS teams have continued their operational activities, enabling a safe working environment for the mission. The UNISFA temporary operating base (TOB) in Dungoup has continuously faced difficulties with resupplying due to the deteriorating road conditions since the start of the rainy season. To address this issue, UNISFA leadership decided to establish a helicopter landing site (HLS) at Dungoup, as not only an alternative resupply option but also an emergency evacuation option. The UNMAS EOD response team was tasked to conduct emergency battle area clearance (BAC) of the proposed location for the HLS to ensure a safe working environment for the construction team.

"The completion of the BAC will allow the UNISFA light field engineering team to conduct the construction of a temporary helipad to be utilized during the rainy season to support TCC at Dungoup," as stated by Mr Johan Maree, UNMAS Chief of OPS. Due to the time restriction, the task was planned and successfully executed in three days to allow the swift construction of the HLS.

On a second task, the team responded to a call-out from Amiet market regarding an unexploded ordnance (UXO) reported next to the Abyei – Diffra main supply route. The item was identified as a 60mm mortar, free from explosive, and subsequently removed. As the item is safe to handle, it will be kept in UNMAS storage for instructional and demonstration purposes.



60mm mortar, free from explosive found and removed



Battle area clearance of a helicopter landing site at Dungoup

Simultaneous with the EOD response activities, locally recruited Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) are delivering safety briefings in the villages of Abyei, Agok and Diffra and raise awareness in the communities about ERW hazards and safe behaviour. Despite the movement limitations imposed by the rainy season, the local CLOs have been intensively conducting their briefings in northern, southern and central Abyei, moving on foot. As they are based in their respective areas of responsibility, they continue to build a relationship with the communities which enhances the flow of information and, in future, could limit the exposure of the community to ERW hazards.

Beneficiaries of these briefings were also handed materials such as leaflets and comic books to assist in the awareness programme, as well as EORE customised face masks to mitigate risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The briefings are valuable as they clearly illustrate risky behaviour as opposed to safe behaviour. The community's attention is focused on the risk factor," as stated by Panther Madut, Abyei Primary School Head Teacher.